

## CLAIMS:

1. A device for shortening hairs comprising a laser source for generating a laser beam during a predetermined pulse time, an optical system for focusing the laser beam into a focal spot, and a laser beam manipulator for positioning the focal spot in a target position, characterized in that a dimension of the focal spot and a power of the generated laser beam  
5 are such that, in the focal spot, the laser beam has a power density which is above a characteristic threshold value for hair tissue above which, for the predetermined pulse time, a laser induced optical breakdown phenomenon occurs in the hair tissue.
2. A device for shortening hairs as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a  
10 wavelength of the laser beam is between 800 nm and 1300 nm.
3. A device for shortening hairs as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the wavelength is between 1000 nm and 1100 nm.
- 15 4. A device for shortening hairs as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device comprises an image sensor for detecting an image of at least a portion of a skin with hairs to be shortened, an image recognizing system for determining a position and/or orientation of the hairs relative to the skin, and a control system for determining the target position of the focal spot as a function of said position and/or orientation, wherein, during  
20 operation, the control system adjusts the laser beam manipulator into a position corresponding to the target position of the focal spot and, subsequently, activates the laser source.
5. A device for shortening hairs as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that,  
25 during operation, for each target position the control system activates the laser source so as to generate a plurality of laser pulses with the predetermined pulse time.
6. A device for shortening hairs as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that, during operation, the control system consecutively adjusts the laser beam manipulator into a

number of adjacent target positions on an imaginary line extending through a hair to be shortened transversely to a longitudinal direction of the hair.